

Henry Mead Close

An Attempt to write out all that can be learned about Henry Mead Close, oldest son of Benjamin Close, the Revolutionary Soldier. Also something about his descendants.

Henry Mead Close, oldest son of Benjamin and Sarah Mead Close was born in Greenwich, Connecticut, December 26, 1785. Henry's line of descent from Goodman Close, the pioneer who came from England about 1642, was - Goodman Close, Thomas Benjamin, Samuel, Benjamin, Henry. This makes Henry of the sixth generation from Goodman Close. The first eight years of Henry's life was spent in Greenwich during which time three other children were born - Benjamin, Deborah and Samuel.

Jonathan Mead, who served seven years in the Revolutionary war, was given a land warrant in Genoa of 640 acres (lot 5) for services rendered. He wished to form a colony and settle it. Benjamin Close, (Henry Mead Close's father) and Benjamin's youngest brother Daniel each bought 100 acres at one dollar an acre and others followed. In 1792 Jonathan Mead and his brother-in-law John Moe went to see this property. The next year in April, Jonathan Mead and John Moe and their families, Benjamin Close and his youngest brother, Daniel, started on their long journey from Greenwich to Genoa NY.

Jonathan Mead's family consisted of his wife Mary or Mollie Brown and three children, Alfred, 7 years old, Sarah or Sally, 4 years old and Rachel, 2 years old. John Moe's wife, Susanna Brown was Mary Brown Mead's sister. They had two children, Robert 5 and Phoebe 2. They came on a schooner up the Hudson to Catskill, NY, bringing with them a covered wagon and two yoke of oxen. From Catskill they completed their journey by wagon. They came by the state road to Oxford and Oswego, to which point that road was little better than marked trees with some of the underbrush lopped out, while from Oswego theirs was the first wagon in this direction. They found generous hospitality at the house of John Clark during the days required to roll together some logs for a temporary home.

The journey from Connecticut occupied twenty-six days and Mrs. Abraham Weeks (the little four year old Sally Mead, daughter of Jonathan Mead)

remembered how tiresome it was. John Weeks also was a brother-in-law of Jonathan Mead and he too settled on 100 acres of Jonathan Mead's lot No. 5. Four miles west of the Close farm was Cayuga Lake which no doubt was visited many times by members of the Close family. Six other children were born in the new home - Rhesa, William, Hannah, Reuben, Sarah and Mary Ann. Henry being the oldest of the family no doubt carried unusual responsibilities, since his father's hands were badly crippled from the wounds he received in the war. Fourteen years after they settled in Genoa, 1807, Benjamin began to build a frame house, almost on the same site of the log house. The house stood on the west side of the road and its front windows looked out over a lovely valley. It was three years in building and it is still standing and is in use now (1940) although 130 years old. Its timbers were hewn by hand and were 8 x 10 and 10 x 12 inches.

Henry and his brothers grew up to a marriageable age, helping their father on the farm. After the War of 1812, young men grew restless and wanted to go farther west and acquire land in the new tracts that had been opened up. Henry and his brothers, Benjamin, Samuel and Rhesa all grew more and more eager to join the caravans traveling toward the West in search of new opportunities to have homes and land of their own. Benjamin tried to keep them with him by offering all inducements that he could afford and they did remain a few years longer. Henry and his brother Benjamin finally decided to go.

Henry had been married to a young girl, Clarissa Knapp, who was born in 1793. We do not know when they were married but it was before April 14, 1810 as Henry's grandmother Hannah Mead wrote in her letter of April 14, 1810 to Benjamin Close, her son-in-law, "Mr. Robert Mow has been to see me and told me that your oldest son was married. Tell him that I wish him much joy and satisfaction in his new marriage state." In 1810 Clarissa was about 17 years old. She died in 1812, leaving two children, Lucius and Clarissa. At the death of their mother in 1812, Lucius was taken to or left in his grandfather Benjamin Close's home and Clarissa was cared for by her Aunts (unmarried) on her mother's side.

Henry married again December 20, 1813, a neighbor girl, Mary Moe, whose home was a short distance north of the Close farm. She was fourth of 13 children of John Moe and Susan Brown, who settled in Genoa the same time Benjamin and Sarah Close did. Mary is said to be the first white female child to be born in West Genoa. John and Susanna (Brown) Moe and two children

Robert and Phoebe had moved to Genoa, N. Y. May 6, 1793. They came with Jonathan and Mary (Brown) Mead and their children Alfred, Sally and Rachel Mead. John Moe's father was James Moe. James was captured in New York and was confined in the Prison Ship and his prison life impaired his health of body and mind. James Moe's wife was Elizabeth Palmer. Mary's mother, Susan Brown, also came from Greenwich, Connecticut. She was the daughter of Sherman Brown and Rachel Lockwood.

Early in the spring of 1817, Henry and his brother, Benjamin Close started on foot for Ohio. They liked the country and decided to settle there. Soon after their return in June of the same year, Henry and Benjamin with Benjamin's wife, Elizabeth Gale, and two children, Marinda and Alanson started for Ohio. A younger brother took them to Buffalo with their father's team. In Buffalo they took a boat to Cleveland, left Mrs. Benjamin Close and the two children "with the kind-hearted Merwins" while the two men looked around to see if it would be advisable to purchase land near Cleveland. Land was for sale, but cash payment would have to be made, which they could not afford, so Benjamin took his family to the home of a cousin near Painesville. Then he and Henry walked to Sullivan via Harrisville ... where they found an old acquaintance who helped them in every way he could. After seeing that Mrs. Close and the two children were comfortably cared for at the cousin's near Painesville, the two men started back to their land with axes. At Harrisville they got a loaf of bread and a little cheese and went on their way. When they came near what was to be called Sullivan Center they heard bells and knew that the expected settlers had arrived. We who travel now over smooth paved roads will find it difficult to realize how these Close brothers walked through the forest part of the way, having only blazed trees to guide them. From Cleveland to Lodi and on to Sullivan, back, possibly clear to Painesville, then over the same ground again, carrying axes. They had heard that a company of settlers was expected to come, in fact these newcomers were already in Medina where they stayed two weeks before going on to Sullivan. The group of pioneers which they found at the center came from West Dover and Somerset, Vermont. They were John Parmely, Sr., his wife Dorothy Scovill and his two unmarried children, John Jr. And Roxana; John Sr.'s son Sylvanus and wife Lois Gould and children, Manning, Rosetta and the twins Lois and Louisa; Sylvanus's brother Asahel, wife Fanny Wright and one child Amandrin. They had arrived August 28th and the Closes found them there late the 29th. Sylvanus had been there the year before, 1816, and had helped in surveying the township. There was a happy meeting of strangers who at once became friends. The only shelter to be had was a little shed made of poles and covered with bark, open on one side which

had been built by the surveyors the year before, but the Closes were royally entertained and there was much mirth and jollity.

The next morning, Saturday, August 30, 1817, the Close brothers went on to Benjamin's land which was two miles north and a mile west of their new neighbors. Their work was chopping down trees for a clearing; their provisions gave out and they had to go back to Harrisville for more bread. In a few days they were ready to raise their building and all the men at the center, seven in all, turned out to help. The cabin stood almost opposite Samuel Farnsworth's house. One more family of the group that started from West Dover and stopped in Medina, had arrived at the center on the 30th, namely, James Palmer and wife Ruth and children Ira, Ora, Mary, Joseph, and Sarah. The Palmers started with the Parmelys from Medina, but the Palmers remained two days in Harrisville, while the Parmelys went on through the forest to their land. Later two other families of the group came from Medina, but not until the next year, 1818. They were Thomas Rice and wife Lucinda Parmely (Sylvanus Parmely's sister) and eight children, Chloe, Ruth, Anna, Cynthia, Perez, Philena, Madison and Shalor, and Jesse Chamberlain and wife, Betsey Mann. These had remained in Medina over the winter. There were others who had come to Medina in 1816, Marshs and Chamberlains, who settled in Sullivan about this time.

(1818) To go on with the narrative, the seven men raised the little cabin. We know who some of the seven men were but we cannot be certain of all. Of course, there were John Parmely, Sr., and his son John, a young man about 20 years old, Sylvanus Parmely and Asahel Parmely, also John Palmer. They with the two Closes would make the seven men. Without the Closes as the narrative said "all the men at the center, seven in all", we can't be sure who the other two were. Perhaps Thomas Rice and Jesse Chamberlain had come from Medina to visit. The day after the raising, the brothers began to make the roof. Rain prevented their finishing it, but they stayed there all night, having built a fire on the ground under the end that was roofed. The next day, in spite of the rain, the roof was completed and near night they reached the center, cold, wet and hungry. After resting that night, Benjamin left Henry there and started to Painesville for his family. After many trials, Benjamin got his family to their new home. The account may be found in "Pencilings of the West" written in 1846 by Hannah Conant Tracy. It is not recorded where Henry was during the time Benjamin was moving his family to the new home, later to be called Sullivan. It seems likely that he may have helped at the center, but upon the arrival of Benjamin's family he was with them and in a few days a floor was laid, a stout

door was put up and window sashes made and put in place. They had no fireplace that fall and winter, fire being built on the ground at one end of the cabin. The floor ended near the fire and it made a nice seat for them. They made furniture although they had only an ax and a saw. After the cabin was made habitable, they began cutting trees for Henry's cabin, which would stand one-half mile west of Benjamin's. In the evenings, the brothers busied themselves at chinking and hewing. In a few weeks, Henry's cabin was made and he went back to Genoa, expecting to bring his family that fall, but he did not get back to Sullivan until the following June.

According to all accounts, the two cabins were alike. Esther, Henry and Mary's oldest daughter, spoke of them as one-room houses. Partitions of curtains were hung up at one end to make bedrooms. For about six months Elizabeth Close, Benjamin's wife, had no nearer neighbors than the people at the center the first year, who were three miles distant from her. She must have been lonely at times. But one day they had guests. Feb. 18, 1818, Benjamin's and Henry's younger brother Rhesa and his bride, Hannah Mead (daughter of Jonathan Mead above mentioned) were brought to the Close cabin by another brother still younger, William. They brought gifts, butter, cheese and other things one cannot have in such pioneer conditions. Rhesa and Hannah purchased land one-half mile farther west from Henry's and their cabin was two miles north and two miles west of Sullivan center. Rhesa also brought good powder (Benjamin's had proved to be poor) and they went out and shot a deer. Soon after Rhesa's arrival, Henry's unoccupied new cabin was occupied by Joseph Sage, his son-in-law John Laborie and their families while they were building their homes on the next road north, in Huntington. No doubt they were grateful for a place to stay, but this is their description of the cabin: "The house was a cheerless affair without chimney, door or windows, and the wide spaces between the logs not being chinked, afforded easy access for the clouds of snow which the furious March winds sent whirling through the air." Mrs. Benjamin Close was very glad to have neighbors even though one-half mile away, for she had been without neighbors nearer than over two miles away since their arrival. A baby was born April 3, 1818, whom she named Deborah Ann. It was still three months before Henry would return from York State with his family. When he did arrive in June, unchinked walls would not be undesirable. He had plenty of time to chink them, build fireplace, make doors and windows before cold weather.

While Henry was in Genoa, there were two marriages in the family. Rhesa had married Hannah Mead, November 18, 1817 and after they had gone west to

settle in Sullivan. Three months later William brought his bride Esther Hollister into the Genoa home. They were married March 5, 1818.

To go back to Henry and Mary Close, the time was drawing near when they would start on their western journey. November 4, in preceding year, 1817, their first child Esther was born. Mary had a sister Phoebe (Moe) Skinner, three years older than she, who lived in Junius, now called Clyde, N. Y. Clyde is on the New York Central in Wayne County, first county west of Cayuga County. Mrs. Skinner at that time had four children, Ann Eliza, eight years old, Sally Maria, six, John Augustus, three and James Sidney, ten months old. Mary and Phoebe's parents (John and Susanna Brown Moe) and Mary's and Phoebe's youngest sister, Sally Moe, eight years old, took Mary Close and her little five months old baby Esther, to visit Phoebe Skinner. This was in April or May 1818. They went in a two-horse wagon and were there a few days. It was a momentous visit, for it was the last one before moving into the far away Ohio home. After their visit, on their way home they met Henry at Seneca Falls. He was in a covered wagon drawn by four oxen, the wagon containing their household goods. Henry and Mary bade goodbye to Mary's father and mother and the little sister Sally, then Henry, Mary and baby Esther started on their journey to Ohio. Their journey lasted four long tiresome weeks, most of the time driving through the wilderness. Esther said, in conversations during a visit in 1903, that the journey was four weeks long to a day. If that is true they must have started Tuesday, May 19th, in order to arrive in Sullivan on June 16th, which was on Tuesday. This would make the visit in Junius a few weeks later, some time before the middle of May.

Henry brought a yoke each of oxen and of steers, a cow and a barrel of pork. The cow followed without a halter. Sometimes when the cow would stop to feed, Mary would be afraid she would be lost but she always turned up. Once in fording a stream which was quite deep, the young yoke of oxen was in the lead and they turned down stream. Henry took hold of their horns and plied his whip but they kept on going down stream. When he at last found a good place to land, he whipped the oxen until they turned and got to land. Mary and the baby were in the wagon and the water came into the wagon. Along the way, it they had more milk than they wanted, they left it at houses they happened to pass. After they reached their land, June 16, 1818, Henry planted corn between the logs and had quite a fair crop. Like Benjamin's, this cabin faced south. It stood on the knoll nearest the eastern boundary of Henry's land on the north side of the road. It had two beds and one chair and Henry fixed up slabs with wooden pegs for legs to keep dishes on. He also made three-legged stools in

case of company. At first they had no flour and Mary would put corn into the bake kettle and pound it with an iron wedge until it would become fine enough to make Johnny-cake and mush. Later the men at the center made a grist mill all of wood, even the cogs and it made a terrible noise when grinding grain. Wild game was plentiful which was a great help to the early settlers. The flesh of the deer served for meat, his horns for pins and hooks and his hide for clothes. Deerskin clothes replaced worn out coats and pants.

Let us see who were left in the home in Genoa, after Henry, Benjamin and Rhessa had settled in Sullivan. The father and mother, Benjamin fifty-three years old and Sarah five years younger. William, twenty-one, his young wife Esther, Hannah nineteen who would marry Francis Hollister in December of the next year, 1819, Reuben, a boy of seventeen who would graduate from Yale eight years later, class of 1826 and Mary Ann a little girl of eleven. Sarah had died in infancy, the year before Benjamin started for Ohio. As for Samuel, the baby who traveled all the way in his mother's arms on horseback, he married Deborah Lockwood and must have left home about 1812 or 1813, as his first two children were born in 1814 and 1816 in Madison, Indiana.

The first Spring after Henry and Mary came to their land, they tapped twenty-five trees and made one hundred pounds of maple sugar. Mary carried the sap to the house, the trees being near. She used a kettle that held a pail and a half and another kettle that held half a pail-full. When the sap ran too fast she used the teakettle also. After this year Henry attended to the sugar making.

The following storied and remarks have no dates except early pioneer times. They occurred while Henry and Mary lived in the first log cabin or after they moved into the second log house. Mary was frightened one night when she heard the howling of wolves and other strange noises. They seemed so near that she built a big fire in the fireplace and held a brand in the tongs ready for the first wolf. When Henry returned late that night from getting provisions, he told her that there was no danger. The wolves were not very near and the other strange noises were the hooting of owls. When Esther was asked what toys she had in these early days she said that her mother made rag dolls for her. She sewed the arms on and made the face with pen and ink. Esther wanted playmates besides her two little brothers Henry Mead and Benjamin and she found one in Mercy Diamond who lived where Hollisters did on the Holbrook place, the first hill east of their place on the south side of the road. Mercy was a little younger than Esther and Esther was only five or six years old. The two children could not be at each other's house every day so they agreed to meet

halfway. One would go halfway and call the other and they would play on the edge of the woods. They found a kind of grass that had fine bushy roots which they used as hair for their dolls. They also gathered leaves and ferns. On the 27th of May 1819, a little less than a year after Henry brought his family to Sullivan, the township of Sullivan was organized. Henry M. Close was elected one of the trustees and was also made Justice of the Peace for Sullivan, Medina County, Ohio. This commission was given August 10, 1819 by Ethan Allen Brown, Governor of Ohio. Henry was re-appointed for a second term of three years, April 16, 1823. By that time Sullivan was a part of Lorain County. These two certificates with another dated Nov. 27, 1844 are among the papers that Henry's youngest son Rhoderick Moe Close preserved. At the same election of May 1819, Rhesa Close, Henry's brother, who had come in February 1818, was made Appraiser of property or Assessor and Benjamin Close was appointed Overseer of the Poor. A "tedious task as all were poor" according to Ashley Parmely in his address given at the 75th anniversary of the founding of Sullivan. In Northrop's Pioneer history of Medina County, there is an account of the first wedding in Chatham. It occurred the next year after Henry was made Justice of the Peace and it may have been the first time he had officiated on such an occasion. Quoting from Northrop, "A messenger traveled through to Sullivan a distance of fourteen miles, without any horse and piloted Esquire Close through the woods to Chatham to tie the marriage knot. When Esquire Close started back for Sullivan, he came to the sage conclusion to go on the trail to Harrisville and thence by another trail to his home, rather than to venture fourteen miles through the woods." The names of the couple married were Henry K. Joline and Eleanor Parsons. A clipping has been found in an old scrapbook telling of the first marriage in Huntington, Ohio, Jan. 1820. John Munson of Harrisville (Lodi) married Polly Sage of Huntington. The ceremony was performed by Henry Close, Esquire of Sullivan. So Henry officiated at the first marriage in Chatham and in Huntington. While they were still living in the first cabin when Esther was about six years old, her mother thought she ought to be going to school. So she sent her with her cousins Marinda and Alanson Close to Sullivan center, where they boarded at old Mr. Palmer's. They stayed three weeks but Esther was unhappy. The teacher, Pamela Loveland, was cruelly strict with the pupils. Esther had to sit with arms folded all day long and her legs were too short for her feet to rest on the floor. Marinda's and Alanson's father (Esther's Uncle Benjamin) came for them at the end of three weeks and they walked home around by the road (two miles north and one mile west) Uncle Benjamin carrying Esther over the bad places. She would not go back to school but the other two being older did go back. There was no school in the Close neighborhood until several years after they moved into the second

log house.

HENRY'S FIRST LOG CABIN The one-room log cabin was used about five years. The family had been increasing until there were eight. Besides Henry and his wife Mary and little daughter Esther, four had been born in this first home, - Henry Mead, Jr., Benjamin, Susan and baby Sally. Sally lived only five weeks when she died and was buried in what became known as Close Street cemetery, the first one to be buried there so far as is known. Mary taking Esther, would go there and cry until once she was startled by noises in the bush. She was frightened but did not show her alarm to Esther. She did not visit her baby's grave for a week afterward. This cemetery is on the same side of the road as the first log cabin, on the second hill west of Henry's first log cabin, quite a distance from the road. The eighth member of the family while in the first log cabin was Lucius Close, Henry's son by his first marriage. At some time during the five years in the first cabin, Henry went to Genoa and brought Lucius home with him and he remained there and went to school until he was nineteen. There is no record just when he came to Sullivan but he must have come between his eighth and fourteenth year, if he came while they were living in the first cabin, as Esther said. Henry bought two lots, No. 89 and 90, of Range 18 of Western Reserve containing 316 acres, "more or less according to survey of S. S. Baldwin", bounded on the south by lot 88, on the north by the south line of Huntington township, on the east by Lots 71 and 72 and on the west by lots 91 and 92. This purchase was made Dec. 1827 and recorded June 1828. Forty acres he had cleared off with help. When the trees were down, he, his brother Benjamin and Benjamin's oldest son, Alanson, set fire to it and burned about thirty acres. It was a grand sight. They were not afraid of setting fire to the surrounding woods for the trees were too green, still they watched it closely to prevent its spreading beyond their control. Mary was very excited the first evening, she went back and forth from kitchen to fire and got supper for the men. Henry cleared the rest of the farm at his leisure. The forest consisted of oak, ash, hickory, black walnut, butternut, maple, beech, besides various kinds of trees of smaller growth. The soil which these forests covered was a clay loam, fine for grazing and under proper tillage, good for grain. The climate was milder than that of new England. Bear, wolf, fox and deer, turkeys, partridges, squirrels and pigeons were found, in the forests a favorite place for hunting, disturbed only by the occasional visit of the Indian seeking his accustomed food and clothing. When flour was needed, Henry would load up his ox wagon with bags of wheat and Mary would mount on top and spend the day in town, while the wheat was being ground in Sylvanus Parmely's mill. She would visit at Richard Chamberlain's, George Mann's, Joseph Carleton's or the Palmer's

home. Once Henry was chopping trees in the Fall when the leaves were off the trees and very dry so that a man walking could be heard rods away. He stopped to rest and turning his head to the left, he saw an Indian standing near him. Henry was startled. The Indian laughed and said he did it to show white man how still Indian can walk. Sometimes in the Spring while he was chopping on one end of a tree, deer would eat the leaves from the other end. He did not shoot them for they were too thin at that time of year. Wild cats would come into the farmyard and catch chickens and geese. Henry and Benjamin went hunting once and caught a wild cat and killed him. Everything was expensive. Salt was as high as ten to fifteen dollars a barrel, wheat two dollars a bushel and everything else in proportion. Later when produce could be raised there was no market to be found. Grain could be exchanged for work with newcomers which, of course could not procure clothing. Pork could be sold dressed, in Cleveland, at two dollars to two dollars fifty cents per hundred. Cleveland was a mere village and but little business could be done in the way of shipping. More produce at that time was raised farther east than could be disposed of at saving figures. One year Henry planted potatoes back of the barn because chess got in and spoiled the meadow. He raised ninety bushels and did not know what to do with them.

Dr. Johns of Wellington, about eight miles north, was Mary's doctor. He loved to tell stories and he told one on himself. He had a very large nose, the largest Esther ever saw. He said he met a man once who had as large a nose as his. He turned his nose to one side with his hand and told the man to turn his nose and he guessed they could pass. Esther heard him tell the story.

One day an old Indian walked into their house (they do not knock, they walk right in) and sat down by the fire and groaned. Mary said, "What's the matter?" He replied that he had the toothache. She asked him why he did not smoke and he said "Me no pipe and backey". So she filled a pipe and gave it to him. He smoked it all out and when he went he thanked her over and over again. About three months later he came again and walked in and found Mary on the bed groaning with toothache. He asked, "Be you sick?" She told him what the trouble was whereupon he gave her a pipe and tobacco. She did not smoke it, but kept it for the next Indian. Esther told this story.

A dozen Indians came in one evening and sat until about ten o'clock talking and laughing. Some talked English so Henry could understand. One was either a half breed or a white captive. Soon an old Indian rose, tapped Henry on the shoulder and motioned him out into the middle of the floor. Mary rose right up

in fear lest he should be killed. But the Indian wanted only to trade guns; according to Indian nature, he must be secret about it. Henry was acquainted with the old man. Esther, a little girl, saw all this and did not go to bed until they left. Mary called Esther to come quick once and look outdoors. She saw some squaws running their ponies. The ponies had red braid tied to their tails. They rode by in an instant screaming and laughing.

SECOND LOG HOUSE In 1823 or 1824, Henry built a new and larger log house on the second hill west of the first log cabin. This log house stood on the south side of the road on the site of the present frame house. Across the road quite far back, is the cemetery where Mary's baby was buried and later many pioneers and residents of that part of the township. The roof of the new log cabin sloped toward the road. The cabin was about square with an addition on the south side covered by the same roof extended. The logs were hewn flat on the inside and the partitions were of white bass hewn smooth, floor was of white oak. Neighbors admired its nice appearance. Beds stood in the northeast and the southeast corners of the living room, and in the same corners of the room above. There was also a bed in the east end of the addition. The fireplace was at the west end of the living room with stairs north of the fireplace, and cupboards on the south side of the fireplace. The west end of the addition was a storeroom for flour etc., and it was there that Mary worked when they butchered. The west end of the upstairs room was a storing place for nuts and fruit. The stairs came up on the west wall starting near the north wall and going up toward the south. There was a pear tree south of the house and one east of it. The pears on the tree east of the house were gathered when green and put into the storeroom to ripen in the winter. Across the road north was an orchard which Henry had planted when he first came. Once Henry brought home some cherry sprouts from Harrisville and these were set out in the front yard before their youngest child, Rhoderick Moe Close was born. Rhesa Houghton, Susan Close's oldest son, named the different kinds of apples that he remembered grew in the north orchard. Rhesa was an old man when he named the different varieties but boyhood recollections of apple orchards are lasting. He mentioned the following but there must have been many more as the orchard was quite large. He remembered the Vandervere, Fall Pippin, Newtown Pippin, black Gilliflower or Sheepnose, Russet, Peck's Pleasant, Rambo, Wine apple, Pelican (poor and coarse), Sweet Bough and Sour Bough. Mary Houghton Edwards, Susan Close Houghton's daughter, remembers that her father had Belmont, Spitzenberg and Northern Spy in their orchard. Very likely Henry had them in his orchard too. There was also an orchard across the road from the first cabin. The first apples of the season, Early Harvest, were

gathered from a tree in this orchard and there was a Slippery Elm in it also. We children remember chewing the pieces of bark. Henry planted both orchards. He brought the apple seeds and peach pits from New York and set them out, transplanting them when large enough. The first apple trees were named for each child. The second log house was occupied about fifteen years, until after Esther's marriage September 26, 1837. A good deal can happen in fifteen years where there are young folks growing up. Marcus Lafayette was the first child born in this house; he lived only seven weeks and then very likely was buried beside his sister Sally. Three other children were born, Susan, Seth Smith and Rhoderick Moe. Lucius was with them, going to school. He became engaged to Elizabeth Humphrey, a Huntington girl, who attended Preparatory Department of Oberlin College, 1833-35. In 1830 several important events transpired. Mary's father, John Moe died May 12th at his home in Genoa. Esther, Mary's daughter, said that Mary had lived in Sullivan fourteen years without being homesick a day until she heard of the death of her father. But fourteen years would make her visit home in 1832, two years after her father's death. Esther, speaking from memory, might have made a mistake in the number of years. Moreover, Lucius' sister Clarissa was living when Mary went home and she died before 1832. We know that Mary went home after the death of her father and that when she, with her baby Seth, arrived at the door and asked if she could stay all night, her mother did not know her. Mary began to cry and by that time her mother recognized her. Clarissa begged to come back with Mary but Mary thought it not wise for her to come. Clarissa had a pain in her shoulder at the time and Mary was afraid something might happen to her and that the Aunts might blame her. She lived only a short time after that, dying at nineteen years of consumption, just as her mother had nineteen years before at nineteen years of age. Henry thought Mary should have brought Clarissa home with her. July 10, 1830 when Lucius was nineteen or twenty years old he enlisted as Ensign in the 30th Co., 2nd Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 9th Division of the Militia of Ohio. The commission was found among Rhoderick Close's papers. Esther said he planned to be a lawyer but it was thought he was inclining toward missionary work. Why he enlisted is not related nor if he went into training. Inquiries in Columbus brought out the fact that military records of that early date were not preserved. Esther said that Lucius was in Sullivan until nineteen years of age. It looks as if the news of Mary's father's death May 12, 1830 may have arrived after his enlistment July 10, 1830 and that he may have changed his plans and have gone to Genoa with Mary and her ten month old baby Seth. Supposing that to be the case, Lucius could have gone two years 1830-31 to school in Sharon, Connecticut, where his Uncle Reuben Close was teaching. His uncle might have influenced him to attend Auburn Theological Seminary where he

had studied 1827-1829, as Lucius's name is enrolled in A.T.S as a student 1832-33. Lucius started home, got as far as Genoa. Henry went after him but he was too ill to go any farther. He died, June or July 1834, three weeks after Henry went home. He was about twenty-four years old when he died and he died, as his Mother and Sister did, of consumption.

SCHOOLS Before there were schools in the part of Sullivan township where the Closes settled, children were taught at home usually. We learned that Benjamin's two children Marinda and Alanson went to school at the center when Mary sent little Esther to go with them. Esther's next chance to go to school was in 1827 when she was nine years old. The Sages and Labories and other Huntington settlers who lived a mile north of Close Street had no school for their children. So the trustees of Huntington and Sullivan got together and organized a school district to accommodate the pupils in the northwest part of Sullivan and southwest part of Huntington. A log schoolhouse was built in a clearing made in Henry's woods, close to the Huntington line and about straight north of the cemetery on Henry's land. To quote from a letter written by Sarah Close Palmer, "Our first school house was built in the dark dense forest, half-way between the two roads to accommodate the Huntington children. The good fathers cut away just trees enough to let the sun in, desks fastened against the logs with long benches made high for the large scholars, long low ones for us little ones. ... Our fathers would take their ox teams and sleds in winter to haul the scholars." Esther was not the only one from Henry's home to go to this school, there were her brothers Henry Mead, Jr., and Benjamin and little sister Susan. The first teacher of this school was Chloe Rice, oldest daughter of Thomas and Lucinda Parmely Rice who lived a short distance east of the center of Sullivan. This was during the summer of 1827. Harlo P. Sage was called the first teacher, as he taught the first winter school. The summer schools were small as the large pupils had to work on the farms. The winter schools were large and lively and as good teachers as possible were hired to teach them. The first winter Harlo P. Sage taught the school which lasted from Nov. 1, 1827 to Feb. 21, 1828 - four months and two days at \$13.00 per month, - \$13.75 was paid in public money and the balance by individual tax. There were thirty-three pupils the first winter. The following Close children were on the roll: Henry's children were Esther, Henry Mead, Benjamin and Susan. Benjamin's were Alanson, Deborah, Alvira, Nathaniel, Rebecca and Amy. Benjamin's oldest daughter Marinda, seventeen years of age, was not enrolled. She may have stayed at home to help or have gone to school at the center. She was married very soon after that, December of the following year. Rhessa had only one child this first term, Newell. Harlo P. Sage taught the

winter schools in this school-in-the-woods seven years, when the school house was no longer used. His eighth term, 1834-35, was taught in a log school house built on Benjamin's land on "Close Street" as it was known. It was a short distance west of Benjamin's first house on the north side of the road, across the road from the George Koons home, formerly the Edgar Rogers home and before that the Hendrix home. A school sled or wagon was no loner necessary, at least for Benjamin's children. This second school house was in use only about five years. There were no new Close children attending from Henry's and Rhesa's families in 1834-35, but in Benjamin's family there were several changes. Alanson had been married and little Amy had died. Two more of his children had arrived at school age - Elizabeth and Samuel, so Benjamin had the same number of children in attendance. Deborah Ann Close, Benjamin's fourth child taught school in this building in 1836 for \$4.00 per month and boarded herself. Harlo P. Sage taught the first term. Very little is known about the five years in this log school house. In 1840 a frame building was erected on the southeast corner across the road from Bernard Holbrook's house. This was used for fourteen years. Mrs. Sarah Palmer aid that their school in this new frame building had some of the best teachers in the county and no school in the township was in advance of Close Street school, not even the center school could boast of better scholars or of having sent out abler teachers. "We had our grammar schools, our geography schools, spelling schools and we went to learn and we did learn." These spelling, singing, geography, etc., schools were held in the evenings. They must have had only candles for lights in those early days. As to spelling school, Close Street was almost the envy of the township according to Mrs. Palmer. She has told about one spelling match. In the winter of 1842-43, the teacher at the center sent out a challenge to all the schools in Sullivan township to come and have a spelling match with them. Ashley Parmely, own cousin of Rosetta Mann Close and later husband of Rosetta's sister Julia, was the teacher on Close street and he drilled and drilled the pupils and had them study their spelling books at home. Sarah Close's brother Samuel, about fifteen years old took the "Trundle-bed trash", as the little ones were called, to the spelling contest and Seth Close, Henry's third son, about thirteen years of age took a load of young folks in their sled. Rhoderick, about eight years old, probably went along. The "Street" could boast of only one string of sleigh bells. These were put in the bottom of one of the sled and were to be hung on one of the horses of the team which carried the winner home. Sarah continues, "The school at the center was held in the lower room of the town house. It was quite large and was filled to overflowing. After the scholars were all in place, the teacher with book in one hand and candle in the other, pronounced the words holding the candle so closely to his little scholars and

asking, 'How did you spell that?' until they were frightened to miss and they went tumbling so fast I thought my turn would be next, for looking around there were only five standing, all from Close Street, too. Well, they did a little more bravely, but soon with my heart in my mouth, mingled with surprise, fear and delight, I found I was the only one of all the scholars standing, excepting a young man near me whom I did not know, but we spelled with all eyes upon us. The teacher finally went to the back part of the book where we had not studied for a long time and I missed 'cephalic'. But when I learned the young man belonged in Huntington, our joy hardly knew its extent, for we had spelled down all the schools of Sullivan township. I was a little girl only 12 years of age. Yes, we 'trundle-bed trash' went merrily home with bells and singing." Sarah's father had kept the fire burning in the big fireplace until the children reached home. Some of the teachers in the frame school house between 1840 and 1853 were Miss Candace Warner, sister of Hon. S. S. Warner of Wellington, Ohio, in 1841. Ashley Parmely in 1842, Ellen Scullin (later Bunce) in 1847, Abigail Carrier, 1852, Stephen Rider, 1852-53, the last teacher in the frame building. Others whose dates we do not know were Levi Farnsworth, Sylvia Parmely (later Campbell. She and Miss Warner may have taught in the log school house before 1840), also Ferdinand Vandevaer Hayden and James A. Martling, both students at Oberlin College. A few of the pupils who went to school in the frame building were: Seth and Rhoderick Close, sons of Henry Mead Close, Annis and Lucy Close, daughters of Benjamin Close. Dan, James and Harriet Chaffee, grand children of Henry Mead Close's uncle Daniel Close. Mary, Jane and Ellen Close, daughters of Rhesa Close's son Newell Close. Ossian and Arthur Leach, sons of Benjamin Close's daughter Alvira Close Leach. Olive and Lottie Close, daughters of Benjamin Close's oldest son, Alanson Close. In 1853, a new schoolhouse was built on the next hill east of Henry's east line fence, on the north side of the road. That was used until concentration of schools was begun in 1905.